



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

11-5182/1a

ER

Mr. Victor Riesel
NEW YORK MIRROR
235 East 45th Street
New York 17, New York

8 JUL 1959

Dear Mr. Riesel:

I wish to acknowledge your note of 26 June and assure you that we have not forgotten you.

In your letter of 26 May you expressed an interest in receiving material which would permit you to write an article spotlighting the World Federation of Trade Unions. I have accordingly had prepared a short description of the activities of the WFTU which clearly indicates that it is an organization used by the Soviets for political purposes and that it cannot be honestly described in any sense as a trade union organization. I enclose this as well as a pamphlet on the same subject and a few copies of WFTU publications.

I trust that this material will be sufficient for you but if you have need for any other specific items please let me know.

I should like very much to be allowed to see a draft of your proposed article and at that time we might get together and agree on quotes which you could use.

P. S. I am glad that you are writing on this subject as it deserves a thorough going over. AWD

Faithfully yours,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosures

1. Activities of WFTU
2. Nine Publications

Facts About a Communist Front

Transport, Port and Fishery Workers' Information Bulletin, May 1959

WFTU News, December 16-31, 1958, and April 16-30 1959, and Nov. 16-30, 1958

World Trade Union Movement, October, November, and December 1959, and

February 1959

1. Addressee of enclosures

1. *Bob*

1. *Bob*

1. Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000300070034-9

1. *ll.d.s.*

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. *
1. DECLASSIFIED
CLASS CHANGED TO: TS 3
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Activities of the World Federation of Trade Unions

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is a Communist front activity in the strictest sense of the word. It exists for the sole purpose of advancing the cause of International Communism; and its policies and activities are invariably a reflection of the policies of the USSR. As a Communist front activity, the WFTU poses a most dangerous threat to free world labor and the orderly development of free labor organizations. Although it has continued its efforts to create a facade of respectability for itself, such efforts conceal none of its latent danger.

The over-all activities of the WFTU continue to encompass an ever increasing panorama of world labor movements. It seeks to implement its program by employing every conceivable means of subterfuge and deception to influence, control and manipulate national and international labor activities for political purposes. However, when circumstances inhibit an operation of the international element of the WFTU in a particular area it very effectively utilizes one or more of its national affiliates to undertake the task. Witness the attempts of pro-Communist elements in the Japanese labor federation, SONYO, to form an Afro-Asian Trade Union Federation (AATUF), which, if successful, would clearly open Afro-Asian labor movements to Communist infiltration and exploitation. And while the WFTU itself does not appear to be presently active in the Far East and Asia, this is only because the responsibility for activity in these areas has been undertaken by the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), an affiliate of the WFTU.

Although the focus of WFTU activities in the past has been centered on the European scene, it is becoming increasingly active in Latin America and Africa. The primary tools for the implementation of WFTU policies in these areas are the affiliated unions and Communist indoctrinated, WFTU-trained trade unionists. Many hundreds of trade unionists have been trained in Communist trade union tactics by WFTU-operated or sponsored schools. A labor training school has been operating in Budapest under the auspices of the WFTU since 1953. This school has trained trade unionists from Latin America, the Near and Middle East, Africa, South East Asia and the Caribbean Islands.

A classic example of the methods employed by the WFTU can be found in a case much closer to home. Here is an excellent example of the far-reaching efforts of this organization. In May of 1958 the WFTU sponsored, encouraged and financed a "labor" school in Costa Rica which was attended

by some thirty Latin Americans. La Nacion, a conservative daily in San Jose, reported that the school was, in effect, a course in Communist indoctrination backed by the WFTU. La Prensa, in a front page article of 8 June 1958 reported that the school was financed by a \$4,000 contribution by the WFTU. La Hora, a daily in Managua, Nicaragua, in its June 8th edition reported the arrest of three Nicaraguans on their return from attendance at this school, and the confiscation of the Communist literature in their possession.

The above are but a few illustrations of the methods the WFTU employs in pursuance of its objectives. The following summary of the more recent stated intentions of the WFTU will illustrate the potential effectiveness of this organization as an instrument of Soviet policy.

From 2-6 April of this year the WFTU held the 19th Session of its Executive Committee in Warsaw, Poland. The current objectives of the WFTU were outlined by Luigi Grassi in a speech to this committee on 3 April 1959 as follows:

- a. To strengthen the struggle for the cessation of nuclear experiments.
- b. To point out the obstacles erected by the West at the Geneva Conference to prevent immediate and final cessation of nuclear experiments.
- c. To consider the possibility of a delegation from WFTU Executive Committee in the Geneva Conference in order to exert pressure in the field.
- d. To strengthen the protest of granting atomic weapons to West Germany.
- e. To support the struggle of the German people against rearmament.
- f. To support the East German Trade Union resolution calling for the signing of a German Peace Treaty.
- g. To consider sending a delegation of the Executive Committee to Berlin to discuss the problems with the East German Trade Unions.
- h. To stimulate action for the convening of a Summit Conference.
- i. To develop international solidarity for the cessation of the war in Algeria.

- j. To grant material and moral aid to the workers of the trade unions of Algeria.
- k. To multiply contacts, bilateral or multilateral agreements concerning serious international problems between (a) WFTU affiliates, (b) WFTU and ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) affiliates or autonomous unions, (c) trade unions of different countries.

On 5 April the Executive Committee adopted a resolution which stated: "The Executive Committee calls on the workers of the world to observe June 25, the 9th anniversary of the day the American Imperialists unleashed the Korean War, as a great day of international working class solidarity with the Korean workers and people fighting for the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and the peaceful reunification of their country." Pursuant to this resolution, meetings and demonstrations were expected to be held in Soviet Bloc countries, China, Italy and Japan (see enclosed report). The following are some of the members of the Executive Committee of the WFTU who planned the 25 June action against the United States.

Agostino Novella -	President of the WFTU
Louis Saillant -	Secretary General
Benoit Frachon -	Vice President
Fernando Santi	Member of Executive Committee
Rudi Kirchner	Member of Executive Committee

The five above-mentioned individuals conferred with Harry Bridges and William Glasier during their recent visit to Europe. (Biographic information on Novella, Saillant, Frachon, and Santi is enclosed.)

The Executive Committee also adopted the following concrete proposals for the achievement of WFTU objectives:

1. Sponsorship of a trade union conference to be devoted to the development of economic bonds between all countries. This was proposed by Victor Grishin (USSR) and supported by Fernando Santi (Italy).

The WFTU secretariat has been charged with preparing for the 20th Session of the Executive Committee a draft agenda for a conference devoted to development of trade between all countries.

2. The holding of a special meeting in the near future at Prague to discuss:
 - a. Expansion of WFTU propaganda on a world-wide basis.
 - b. The Holding of a European Workers Conference at Zgorzelec, Poland, to discuss German peace treaty.

This meeting was proposed by Grassi who was supported by V. Grishin; the proposal was adopted and a meeting was scheduled for 8-10 May.

- c. Transmittal of a memorandum to the next session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations containing demands of the working people and proposals for their settlement. This was proposed by Marcel Bras in his report and was adopted. WFTU was charged with responsibility for preparation and transmittal.
- d. Creation of a standing committee composed of members of the Executive Committee and other social leaders. This committee is to be given the task of (1) granting legal and moral assistance to trade union leaders being prosecuted, and (2) organizing mass campaigns in defense of such leaders or to make efforts to free them. This committee was proposed by L. Soloviev.
- e. Speed up the work of the WFTU Secretariat in the preparation of a "minimum program" of struggle of the working masses, which would be acceptable to trade union organizations in all countries. This action was proposed by L. Soloviev.
- f. A conference on methods of struggle by trade unions in capitalistic countries against unemployment. This conference was proposed by L. Soloviev.
- g. The Executive Committee approves and gives its support to trade unions in common market countries to develop joint action against the negative effects of the common market.

BIOGRAPHIES

Louis Saillant - French

Saillant has been Secretary General of the WFTU since its inception in 1945, and until 1948 was secretary of the Communist dominated General Confederation of Labor (CGT). Prior to World War II Saillant was regarded as friendly to the United States and as sympathetic to Western ideology. Subsequently, he has completely aligned himself with the Communists and is openly anti-United States. In his capacity as Secretary General of the WFTU he has made innumerable visits to Soviet and satellite countries and has been a delegate to world trade union conferences.

Personal Data:

Born 27 September 1910, Valence (Drôme); elementary school and apprentice in furniture factory.

Career Activities:

1929	Secretary of a local furniture workers syndicate
1931-37	Secretary, National Federation of Furniture Makers
1937-41	Member, Administrative Committee, CGT, and of the Administrative Council of the International Federation of Wood Workers.
1940	Became Secretary of the CGT
1944	Named in September Secretary of the "Administrative Committee of 13" charged the preliminary London Conference with elaborating the statutes of the future WFTU
1945	As of March 1945 he was Acting Secretary General of the New Federal Executive Committee of the CGT
1946	Elected Secretary of the CGT, described as "fellow traveler"
1947	Chairman of a WFTU delegation to Japan, Member of French delegation to Moscow to confer with labor groups
1948	Resigned as CGT Secretary in order to "devote himself to his task as WFTU General Secretary"
1949	Delegate, 10th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions, Moscow
1950	Attended WFTU meeting of Executive Committee in Bucharest
1951	Vice president of the French-USSR Association

Agostino Novella - Italian

Novella is described as a "hard core" Communist who adheres closely to the desires of extremist elements of the Italian Communist Party (Partito Comunista Italiano) (PCI), leadership. He is head of the Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) which is a Communist dominated trade union; member of the PCI Central Committee and Directorate. As a supporter of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, he has attacked "US Capitalism" in most of his public speeches, and has campaigned vigorously against the Atlantic Alliance and the establishment of United States missile bases in Italy.

Personal Data:

Born 28 September 1905 in Genoa; son of a locksmith, completed elementary education; worked in military shoe factory for a short time returned to father's shop.

Career Activities:

1925	Elected Secretary of the Communist Youth Federation of Genoa
1926	Reorganized the Savona Communist Youth Section; participated in the preparation of the III PCI National Congress; assisted with the preparation of a secret National Communist Youth Congress
1927	Arrested and sentenced by special tribunal to four years imprisonment and three years special vigilance
1935	Member of the Italian delegation which attended the Seventh Congress of the Comiturn in Moscow
1945	Appointed PCI Liguria Regional Secretary and PCI Federation Secretary of Genoa
1946	Elected to the PCI Central Committee and Directorate Elected to Constituent Assembly
1948	Elected to the PCI Central Committee and Directorate, Secretariat and Electoral Commission
1952	Elected to CGIL Directive Committee and Secretariat
1953	Attended the third World Congress of the WFTU in Vienna, elected to the WFTU General Council
1956	Called for the creation of a new union outside of the frame work of CGIL, Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Unions (CISL), or Italian Labor Union (UIL).
1957	Elected alternate member of WFTU Executive at the IV WFTU Congress, Leipzig, 4-15 October 1957; attended the 40th Anniversary of the October Revolution in Moscow.

Benoit FRACHON - French

Benoit Frachon, Secretary General of the French Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) and Vice President of the WFTU, has long been regarded as CGT's master tactician. He is regarded as a brilliant organizer who has worked his way up from the ranks of a local trade union organization in his youth to the top spot in the Communist party's powerful trade union organization. An officio member of the French Communist party's Politburo in the postwar era, he was elected to full membership on that body in 1956. Frachon, who has an intimate knowledge of the working classes, is a staunch believer in the concept that uncompromising class conflict is the true tradition of the CGT.

Personal Data:

Born 13 May 1893, Chambon-Feugerelles (Loire), son of a mine worker. After primary school he became an apprentice metallurgist at the age of thirteen.

Career Activities:

1906 - After becoming an apprentice metallurgist, he was a trade union militant in the organization at Chambon and in the Forges de Guerigny (Nievre)

1914 - Mobilized, spent war years in an arms factory
1918

1919 - After the war became a factory delegate in Marseille

1920 - Joined the Communist Party

1926 - Secretary, Lyon Region, French Communist Party (PFC) and member of the Central Committee

1928 - Assisted at Congress of the Comintern, Moscow

1928 - Member, National Secretariat, PFC
1932

1935 - Delegate, 7th Congress of the Comintern, Moscow

1936 - After syndical unification (CGT - CGTU) he became joint Secretary with L. Jouhaux of the unified CGT.

1939 - When the Communists were excluded from the CGT (September 1939)
1944 he went into clandestine activity for five years

1945 - After the Liberation of France he again took up his post as co-Secretary of the CGT with L. Jouhaux; headed a delegation of French Syndicalists to Moscow

1947 - Member, French delegation to Moscow for meeting of trade union groups of France and the USSR; in TRUD, article September 19, he was quoted as saying, "We (presumably French trade unions) promise to defend the USSR with all our strength."

1948 - Member, National Council, Combatants de la Liberte

1949 - Addressed crowd at the Bastille 1 May, urging them to revolt rather than join a war against the Soviet Union; attended II Congress of Polish Trade Unions with CGT delegation

1950 - Signed an "Appeal of Prominent French Public Figures" condemning use of "all means of destruction, including Atomic, Chemical, and bacteriological weapons."

1954 - Signed an appeal against ratification of European Defense Council (EDC) by France

1955 - Signatory to World Peace Council (WPC) petition against Atomic warfare

1957 - Elected to one of the twelve Vice President positions of the WFTU Executive Committee

Fernando SANTI - Italian

In the Italian General Confederation of Labor (Confererazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro - CGIL), Santi, who became Deputy Secretary General in November 1957, has long been one of the chief representatives of the Socialist current. In September 1956 he called for the creation of a new, single union that would encompass the existing federations (Christian Democratic, Social-Democratic, and the Italian Socialist Party (PSI)- Italian Communist Party (PCI) dominated CGIL) and that would exist outside their frame work. In any event, Santi is by no means averse to collaborating with the Communist, particularly if there is advancement in it for him, this despite his public stance of aloofness from close ties with the PCI.

Personal Data:

Born 13 November 1902, village of Cornocchio di Golese, Parma. Father was a railroad worker. Santi is a travelling salesman.

Career Activities:

1918 - Joined PSI youth group

1920 - Secretary Chamber of Labor, Parma

1921 - Secretary General Socialist Youth

1925 - Directed the Chamber of Labor, Turin

1926 - In Milan was the last Secretary of the Socialist Unitaria section

1927 - Began to work as a travelling salesman, his travels continually interrupted by police control and arrests

1943 - Many times arrested; expatriated to Switzerland where in 1943 he was secretary of a committee for assistance to political refugees

1945 - Reentered Italy clandestinely, collaborated on AVANTI

1952 - Attended the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in the United States as World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) representative. Upon his return wrote a series of articles in AVANTI highly critical of "Facism" in the United States

1953 - Served International Labor Organization (ILO) delegations as adviser, including the 36th session; elected a full member, WFTU General Council, Vienna

1955 - Elected to PSI Central Committee, Turin

1956 - New member, Italian Peace Partisans Directing Committee

1957 - Appointed Assistant Secretary General, CGIL

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Executive Registry
11-5782/1

CONFIDENTIAL² JUL 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

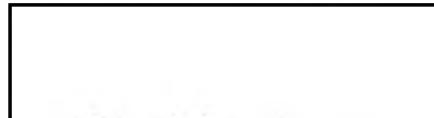
VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)
Acting Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

SUBJECT: Victor Riesel's request to the DCI for information
on the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DCI.
Such requested action is contained in paragraph 2.

2. Victor Riesel, labor columnist for the New York Daily Mirror,
addressed two letters to you (26 May and 26 June) requesting information
on the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) on which to base
newspaper articles spotlighting this Communist-dominated organization.
The exchange of correspondence anticipates a future meeting between
yourself and Mr. Riesel.

3. Attached is a letter to Mr. Riesel for the DCI's signature,
forwarding information on the activities of the WFTU together with
nine publications regarding the subject.



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CORD MEYER, JR.
Chief
International Organizations Division

Attachment:

Letter to Victor Riesel
with accompanying attachments.

cc: DDCI

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~~SECRET~~

Executive Registry

11-5782

NEW YORK MIRROR

DAILY AND SUNDAY

235 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

June 26, 1959

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Allen Dulles:

On the chance that my second letter to you on the WFTU may have gone astray, I am writing this note.

I write, although it takes no clairvoyance to realize how piled your desk must be. But, if there is any chance of getting the material you mentioned to me in your note, I'd sure like it.

Cordially,

Victor Riesel

Victor Riesel

VR:dp

NEW YORK MIRROR

DAILY AND SUNDAY

235 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

May 26, 1959

Mr. Allen W. Dulles,
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

It roils me to read the outpourings of those who always wait for a truly immense man of the times to pass on before they realize the impact he has made on our history and our decency. Nor are they aware of the travail it took to shoulder his weight through the unthinking ones, who, somehow, always manage to crowd the top.

I did not know John Foster Dulles, but in many places to which I've traveled throughout the world, I felt that it might not be free soil, if it were not for him.

It was gracious of you to write the way you did, despite your personal and professional burdens. In your letter written to me on May 21, you say that you would let me have the material on the WFTU. I sure would like to have it. How can I get it, and how soon?

How can we get together on the quotes which you suggested? I'd sure like to spotlight that WFTU crowd. In addition to everything else, their arrogance is galling. Perhaps, some day we can talk. That, I would like very much.

Cordially,

Victor Riesel

Victor Riesel

VR:dp